Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 29 through page 3 line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

According to more specific embodiments of the present invention, the first reactant may be a siloxane represented by the general formula $Si_nO_{n-1}X_{2n+2}$, where n is an integer of 2 to 5, and X is a chemical group selected from F, Cl, Br, I, or NCO. In a preferred embodiment, the first reactant is a halogen- or NCO- substituted disiloxane (i.e., n=2). Most preferably, the first reactant is a siloxane selected from the group consisting of Si_2OCl_6, Si_2OBr_6, and [[or]] $Si_2O(NCO)_6$ and the second reactant is selected from the group consisting of H_2O, H_2O_2, ozone (O_3) and [[or]] oxygen radical.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 19-25 with the following amended paragraph:

The first reactant is generally represented by the formula $Si_nO_{n-1}X_{2n+2}$, where n is an integer of 2 to 5 and X is a chemical group selected from F, Cl, Br, I, or NCO. By way of examples, the first reactant as used herein may be selected from the group consisting of Si_2OCl_6, $Si_3O_2Cl_8$, $Si_4O_3Cl_{10}$, Si_2OBr_6, $Si_3O_2Br_8$, $Si_4O_3Br_{10}$, $Si_2O(NCO)_6$ and [[or]] $Si_3O_2(NCO)_8$, or mixtures thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the first reactant is a halogen- or NCO- substituted disiloxane. Most preferably, the first reactant is selected from the group consisting of Si_2OCl_6, Si_2OBr_6 and [[or]] $Si_2O(NCO)_6$.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 27-31 with the following amended paragraph:

The first basic catalyst as used herein is preferably selected from pyridine (C_2H_5N) and [[or]] an amine. More preferably, the first basic catalyst is a tertiary aliphatic amine compound having the general formula NR_3, where each R represents the same or a different aliphatic group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms. In a specific preferred embodiment, the first basic catalyst is trimethylamine (C_3H_9N).

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 24-26 with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the second reactant is selected from the group consisting of H_2O, H_2O_2, ozone (O_3) and [[or]] oxygen radical. The second basic catalyst may be the same as or different than the first basic catalyst.